

dried specimens, they are not so regular, well-marked, and distinct as in the living animal.

The way of walking is somewhat similar to that of *Tolypeutes*. The generality of stuffed specimens give a very wrong idea of the form of the nose, dorsal shield, and of the feet. Though *Xenurus* and *Tolypeutes* walk on the tips of the claws, they stand and walk in a very different manner. In the Cabassou (*Xenurus*) the toes are short, and have very strong elongate claws, which spread out horizontally, and are rather divergent; the animal walks on the tips of its claws, the remainder of the claws and the soles of the feet being parallel to, but raised from the soil. In *Tolypeutes* the toes are very short; the claws are slender, elongate, and bent down perpendicularly, so that the animal walks on the tips of its claws, as on stilts.

Several persons to whom I have mentioned these facts doubt their truth, especially in the latter genus; but I have repeatedly verified them with my own eyes. The stuffed specimens and the figures of the animals, and also the figures of the bones of the feet, though very accurate in all their details, give a very erroneous idea of the manner in which these animals stand and, more especially, walk. The Cabassou walks about with the nostrils of his broad truncated nose expanded, sniffing very much like a pig; and from the way it turns over the hay of its cage with its nose, I think that very probably it searches for its food in the same manner as pigs do, thereby justifying the English name generally given to the armadilloes, "hog in armour."

*On the Fauna of Nowaja-Semlja.* By Prof. EHLERS.

Prof. Ehlers has published a list of marine animals from Nowaja-Semlja, belonging to the classes Insecta, Arachnoidea, Ascidia, to the Vermes, Bryozoa, Echinodermata, Cœlenterata, and Sponges. He concludes it with the following remarks.

Although this catalogue cannot claim to even approximate completeness in the enumeration of the animals belonging to the classes treated in it which occur on the shores of Nowaja-Semlja, it is nevertheless large enough to show that in general the fauna is that of the European north sea; but it further shows that on these islands animals occur together which we should otherwise regard as endemic forms of two distinct zoogeographical provinces. Thus, if we indicate the coasts of Spitzbergen, Greenland, and perhaps polar America as parts of an arctic province, and those of Iceland and northern Scandinavia as parts of a boreal province, and distinguish those animals which have hitherto been found in one province or the other as boreal and arctic animals, it appears that on the shores of Nowaja-Semlja arctic and boreal animals occur side by side, besides those animals which are distributed through all provinces of the northern seas.

It seems probable that the behaviour of the Gulf-stream has some influence upon this distribution, inasmuch as a part of its current attains the southern shore of Nowaja-Semlja, and so on this coast a

neutral territory is produced, in which the conditions of the arctic province, scarcely, if at all, affected by the Gulf-stream, may meet more or less with those of the boreal province; whilst boreal animals may the more easily be carried northwards to Nowaja-Semlja from the neighbouring Scandinavian coasts, as the Gulf-stream passing by the latter carries them to this island.

The following summary furnishes evidence of this. In it I have referred only to those animals of whose distribution in the northern sea we are accurately informed.

There have been found on the shores of Nowaja-Semlja:—

I. Animals which were known only as arctic:

*Custilia arctica*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen. *Nereis zonata*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen and North Greenland. *Euchone analis*, Kr., Spitzbergen and Greenland. *Chone Duneri*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen. *Asteracanthion grönlandicus*, Steenstr., Greenland. *Myriotrochus Rinkii*, Steenstr., Greenland.

II. Animals which were known only as boreal, or which had their northern limit of distribution in the boreal province:

*Evarne impar*, Johnst., Iceland, Norwegian, English, and French coasts. *Pista cristata*, Müll., Norwegian and English coasts. *Euchone papillosa*, Sars, Norway.

III. Animals found everywhere in the northern sea:

*Harmothoe imbricata*, Linn. *Pholoe minuta*, Fab. *Lumbriconereis*. *Cirratulus cirratus*, Müll. *Amphitrite cirrata*, Müll. *Terebellides Strömii*, Sars. *Priapululus caulatus*, Lam. *Alcyonidium gelatinosum*, Linn.

Here also must be placed *Erigone longipalpis*, Sund., which, as Dr. Koch kindly informs me, has been observed in England, occurs in Sweden, and has been found in Spitzbergen. *Bdella arctica*, Thor., appears to be widely distributed in high northern latitudes, and to occur particularly abundantly in Greenland.

As regards the animals collected on the coast of Finmark, I have only to remark that among them there are some which have hitherto been known only from more northern coasts, such as:—*Scione lobata*, Mlmg., Spitzbergen and Greenland; *Phascolosoma boreale*, Kef., Greenland; *Ophiocten sericeum*, Forb., Ljungm., Polar America, Greenland, and Spitzbergen.—*Sitzungsber. phys.-med. Soc. zu Erlangen*, January 12, 1873.

On “*Le Rat de Madagascar.*”

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Buffon, in the third volume of the ‘Supplement’ to the ‘Histoire Naturelle,’ p. 49, t. xx., describes and figures “*le Rat de Madagascar*” from a specimen that lived several years in the collection of Madame la Comtesse de Massam. This figure has been referred to the *Lemur murinus* of Gmelin and to several other nominal species.

Unfortunately the size of the animal is not mentioned; but if the figure is of the size of the living specimen there can be little doubt